

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday

April 1, 2026

Seventy-second Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:37 a.m.

The roll showed twenty members present.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Charles Ensminger, Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church. Senator Hoffman moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Creator God, I give you thanks for the opportunity to be in service and to be active this day.

May we not take this day or these opportunities for granted.

I pray for the State Senate: surround them with your wisdom, your peace, and your grace. Fill them with a desire for all truth, and the conviction to adhere to the highest standards. Guide and direct them.

May their thoughts, their actions, and their conversations be constructive and beneficial for the people of this great state, and may they abide in peace even in disagreements.

Watch over them this day, I pray. And together I would ask that you surround them, those that work in

this building, from the pages to the custodians, from the security to the staff, with your abiding presence.

I pray this to you, Creator God, in reverence and
humility, Amen.

Senator Bjorkman led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journal for the seventy-first legislative day and House and Senate Joint Journal Supplement No. 18 be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

Letter dated March 31 was read stating in accordance with Article III, Sections 26 and 27 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 39.05.080, I submitted a list of appointees for confirmation.

The following appointee is withdrawn from consideration, effective immediately:

Board of Massage Therapists

Scherri Hoopes

Standing Committee Reports

SB 41

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 41 "An Act relating to mental health education."

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senator Kiehl.
Signing no recommendation: Senator Stedman, Cochair; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Education and Early
Development

Fiscal Note No. 4, zero, Department of Family and Community
Services

Fiscal Note No. 5, zero, Department of Health

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 163

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 163 "An Act relating to inactive state accounts and funds; repealing the home ownership assistance fund; repealing the operating loss reserve account; repealing the public access fund; repealing the Southeast energy fund; repealing the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act reimbursement fund; repealing the child care facility revolving loan fund foreclosure expense account; repealing the tourism revolving fund foreclosure expense account; repealing the residential energy conservation fund foreclosure expense account; repealing the historical district revolving loan fund foreclosure expense account; repealing the Alaska temporary assistance program emergency account; repealing the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games reserve fund; and providing for an effective date" and recommended the adoption of the Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute offered on page 1888.

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs;
Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following previously published fiscal information applies:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Administration

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 170

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 170 "An Act relating to gaming; relating to bingo; relating to pull-tabs and electronic pull-tab systems; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 170(FIN) "An Act relating to gaming; relating to gaming activities on Alaska marine highway system vessels; relating to bingo; relating to pull-tabs and electronic pull-tab systems; relating to the powers of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; relating to the Alaska marine highway system fund; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Hoffman, Cochairs. Signing no recommendation: Senator Stedman, Cochair; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick. Signing do not pass: Senator Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, indeterminate, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Revenue

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 274

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 274 "An Act relating to the computation of the amount available for appropriation from the Alaska permanent fund; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senators Olson, Stedman, Hoffman, Cochairs; Senators Kaufman, Cronk, Merrick, Kiehl.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, Department of Revenue

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SJR 30

The State Affairs Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30 Expressing gratitude for the United States military and supporting increased defense readiness through infrastructure development and public-military partnerships, and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION
NO. 30(STA)

Signing do pass: Senator Kawasaki, Chair; Senators Wielechowski, Gray-Jackson, Bjorkman, Tilton.

The following fiscal information was published today:
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Legislative Agency

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Consideration of the Calendar

Second Reading of Senate Bills

SB 185

SENATE BILL NO. 185 "An Act relating to the business of insurance; relating to exceptions to prohibited rebates; relating to the powers of the director of the division of insurance; relating to prohibited practices in the advertisement of insurance; and providing for an effective date" was read the second time.

Senator Bjorkman, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent for the adoption of the Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute offered on page 2025. Without objection, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 185(L&C) was adopted.

President Stevens stated CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 185(L&C) will advance to third reading on the next calendar.

Third Reading of Senate Bills

SB 130

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 130(FIN) "An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 130(FIN) "An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 130(FIN)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 3 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

Nays: Cronk, Rauscher, Tilton

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. NO. 130(FIN) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 63

SENATE BILL NO. 63 "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

Senator Cronk moved the bill be returned to second reading for the purpose of a specific amendment, that being Amendment No. 1. Without objection, the bill was returned to second reading.

Senator Cronk offered Amendment No. 1:

Page 2, line 10:

Delete "2026"

Insert "2027"

Senator Cronk moved for the adoption of Amendment No. 1. Without objection, Amendment No. 1 was adopted.

SENATE BILL NO. 63 am was automatically in third reading.

The question being: "Shall SENATE BILL NO. 63 am "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SB 63 am

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Rauscher, Stedman, Stevens, Tilton, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

and so, SENATE BILL NO. 63 am passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

SB 143

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; relating to the size of the city council in second class cities; and providing for an effective date" was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; relating to the size of the city council in second class cities; and providing for an effective date" pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSSB 143(CRA)

Third Reading - Final Passage

Effective Date(s)

YEAS: 20 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Rauscher, Stedman, Stevens, Tilton, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

and so, CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) passed the Senate.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the vote on the passage of the bill be considered the vote on the effective date clause. Without objection, it was so ordered and the bill was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Third Reading of Senate Resolutions

SJR 29

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to a public education fund, was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to a public education fund, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SJR 29

Third Reading - Final Passage

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 3 EXCUSED: 0 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bjorkman, Claman, Cronk, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hoffman, Kaufman, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Yundt

Nays: Myers, Rauscher, Tilton

and so, SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment.

Citations

Honoring – Barbara Gerard
Senator(s) Rauscher, Tilton
Representative(s) Johnson

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Honoring – Daniel Bale
Representative(s) Costello

Honoring – Nelson San Juan
Representative(s) Mina, Kopp
Senator(s) Giessel

In Memoriam – Ashlee Jane Spann
Senator(s) Kawasaki
Representative(s) Stapp, Dibert

In Memoriam – Stephen Earle “Coach” Walker
Representative(s) Costello

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the following citation be made a special order of business. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Special Order of Business

Honoring – Jazzlyn John
Representative(s) Schwanke
Senator(s) Cronk

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citation be adopted. Without objection, the citation was adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Unfinished Business

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the thirty-fourth Alaska State Legislature delegate to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee the full authority to initiate, appeal, and take all action necessary to direct litigation regarding the veto of section 51 in chapter 10, SLA 2025, and that the Legislative Budget and Audit

Committee be authorized to make all decisions concerning the objectives, scope, and means of pursuing this litigation, including the settlement, compromise, and appeal.

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the motion be withdrawn. Without objection, the motion was withdrawn.

Announcements

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Engrossment

SB 130

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 130(FIN) "An Act relating to the fisheries product development tax credit; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of sec. 2, ch. 31, SLA 2022; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 63

SENATE BILL NO. 63 am "An Act relating to the Local Boundary Commission; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SB 143

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) "An Act relating to the terms of office of municipal school board members; relating to the size of the city council in second class cities; and providing for an effective date" was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

SJR 29

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to a public education fund, was engrossed, signed by the President and Secretary and transmitted to the House for consideration.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., April 3, 2026. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Apr 02	Thursday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
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EDUCATION

Apr 01	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
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+ -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Presentation: UAF Leadership Presentation on the Alaska Native Language Center by Mike Sfraga, UAF Chancellor
 Charlene Stern, UAF Provost
 Teisha Simmons, Dean, College of Indigenous Studies
 Bryan Uher, Vice Chancellor of Rural, Community and Native Education
 Presentation: History of the Alaska Native Language Center's Work and its Present Status by Sam Alexander, Chair, Alaska Native Language Program, UAF
 Anna Berge, Professor of Linguistics, UAF
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled:
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 03	Friday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
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Apr 06	Monday No Meeting Scheduled	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
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EDUCATION (continued)

- Apr 08 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 + HB 28 TEACHER/STATE EMPLOYEE STUDENT LOAN PRGRM
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 278 LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + HJR 39 WAIVE VISA FEES FOR TEACHERS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += SB 204 SUB. TEACHING; SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += HB 176 UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FEES
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 10 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM**
 No Meeting Scheduled
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FINANCE

- Apr 01 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 += SB 41 PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 163 REPEAL CERTAIN INACTIVE FUNDS/ACCOUNTS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 274 PERMANENT FUND POMV AVAILABLE FOR APPROP
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 01 Wednesday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 02 Thursday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM**
 -- MEETING CANCELED --
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv
- Apr 02 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM**
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 No Meeting Scheduled

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FINANCE (continued)

Apr 03 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 03 Friday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
 -- Please Note Time Change --
 No Meeting Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Apr 02 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 07 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + HJR 32 RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 += SB 187 SCHOOL NUTRITION/MEAL: PROHIBIT FOOD DYES
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 + SB 123 CINA: CITIZENS' REVIEW PANELS
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 09 Thursday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SB 281 HEALTHCARE COMPACTS; RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

JUDICIARY

Apr 01 Wednesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 += SB 252 UCC: SECURED TRANS.; ELECTRONIC RECORDS
 -- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 03 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

LABOR & COMMERCE

Apr 01 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 03 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

RESOURCES

Apr 01 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SJR 20 CLEAN UP MARINE DEBRIS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + SB 208 AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 + HJR 18 URGING SUPPORT FOR AKLNG
 -- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 03 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 06 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

Apr 08 Wednesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 + Consideration of Governor’s Appointees:
 Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska:
 Julie Vogler
 = SB 226 HOMEMADE FOOD; REDUCED OXYGEN PACKAGING
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 += HJR 18 URGING SUPPORT FOR AKLNG
 -- Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

Apr 10 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
 += SJR 20 CLEAN UP MARINE DEBRIS
 += SB 208 AGRICULTURAL LAND LEASES
 = SB 226 HOMEMADE FOOD; REDUCED OXYGEN PACKAGING
 = SB 192 EVACUATION DESIGNATION LEVELS
 -- Invited & Public Testimony --
 Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

STATE AFFAIRS

Apr 02 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 3:30 PM
 + Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
 Streamed live on AKL.tv

TRANSPORTATION

Apr 02 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
 No Meeting Scheduled

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

FISH & GAME

Apr 15 +	Wednesday Budget Close Out	Senate Finance 532	8:00 AM
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TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Apr 01 +	Wednesday Airports & DFS	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
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Apr 08 +	Wednesday AMHS	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
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Apr 15 +	Wednesday Budget Close Out	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
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OTHER MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS MEETINGS

Apr 08	Wednesday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Arctic Winter Games 2026, Team Alaska Updates, Photos, Achievements on Alaska's Performance at Arctic Winter Games 2026 Nicole Morton-Johnson, President Sponsored by Senator Cronk	Davis 106	12:00 PM
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Apr 09	Thursday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Updates on Recent Developments Surrounding the Port of Alaska by Terry Unatum, Director, Port of Alaska Sponsored by Senator Kaufman	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
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Apr 10	Friday Lunch & Learn Presentation: Looking Back at the History on the Global Perspective of Oil & Gas Sponsored by Senator Giessel and Representative Mears	Butrovich 205	12:00 PM
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